

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FRANKF 06696 231614Z
ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DOE-01 DOEE-00 SOE-01 DODE-00
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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3026
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C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 6696

LIMDIS

FROM CONGEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ECEM, SENV, GW
SUBJ: ALLIED CHEMICAL KEPONE SHIPMENT TO THE FRG

REF: (A) FRANKFURT 6592 (B) STATE 213230

1. IN COURSE OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER OCCASION
EARLIER TODAY HESSIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT HOLGER BOERNER
TO ME PRIVATELY THAT HE HAD NO REPEAT NO INTENTION OF
REVOKING THE PERMIT UNDER WHICH ALLIED CHEMICALS
KEPONE/ARSENIC WILL BE STORED AT THE KALI AND SALZ A.G.
SITE IN HESSE. HE ALSO SAID THAT WITH AGREEMENT BETWEEN
KALI AND SALZ AG AND ALLIED CHEMICAL SHIPMENT OF THAT
PORTION OF THE KEPONE WHICH HAS NOT YET LEFT THE U.S.
WOULD BE DELAYED. BOERNER'S MAIN PURPOSE IN WANTING A
DELAY IS TO AVOID HAVING A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION
COINCIDING WITH REFORGER EXERCISE WHICH AS
THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, WILL BE HELD IN HESSE FROM
SEPT 18 TO 28. (THE FOREGOING INFORMATION SHOULD
BE HELD VERY CLOSELY).

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PAGE 02 FRANKF 06696 231614Z

2. INDEPENDENT FROM THE ABOVE CONVERSATION CONGEN IS
INFORMED THAT OF THE TOTAL SHIPMENT OF 250 TONS ABOUT
100 HAVE EITHER ARRIVED AT THE SITE OR ARE ENROUTE
AND ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE STORAGE SITE WITHIN
THE NEXT 10 DAYS OR SO.

3. SOME OF THE PARTISAN POLITICAL HEAT MAY GO OUT OF THIS CONTROVERSY BECAUSE MUCH TO THEIR DELIGHT THE SPD HAS DISCOVERED THAT KEPONE HAS FOR YEARS BEEN IMPORTED INTO THE FRG BY A CHEMICAL COMPANY, SPIESS UND SOHN IN NEIGHBORING AND CDU GOVERNED, RHEINLAND-PFALZ WHERE IT HAS BEEN MANUFACTURED INTO A POTATO BUG INSECTICIDE CALLED DESPIROL PLUS FOR THE GERMAN MARKET. IN FACT, AFTER KEPONE WAS BANNED IN THE U.S. THE RHEINLAND-PFALZ FIRM STOCKPILED RESERVES TO MAKE SURE THAT IT HAD ENOUGH ON HAND FOR ITS NEEDS. MOREOVER, A QUERY INITIATED SOME 2 YEARS AGO BY A RHEINLAND-PFALZ SPD LANDTAG DEPUTY ABOUT EH POSSIBLE DANGER OF THIS CHEMICAL WAS ANSWERED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME WITH ASSURANCES THAT THERE IS NO DANGER AND THE ANSWER WAS GIVEN OVER THE SIGNATURE OF THE THEN SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER AND CURRENT CDU GENERAL MANAGER HEINER GEISSLER.

4. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE THINK IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE HESSIAN STATE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORCED TO REVOKE THE PERMITS IT HAS GRANTED. WE ALSO SEE NO REASON FOR DOUBTING BOERNER'S WORD THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED AFTER SOME DELAY AFFECTING THE SECOND HALF OF THE SHIPMENT. WHILE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL PROBABLY SUCEED IN NEUTRALIZING THE PARTISAN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE THE CDU HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 FRANKF 06696 231614Z

GAIN, THIS WILL, OF COURSE, NOT SILENCE THE ECOLOGISTS. THUS, WHILE THE PARTISAN ASPECTS OF THE ARGUMENT MAY BE MUTED, SOME DEBATE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE. LEHMANN

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